

Voluntary - Public

Clearance Office: Office of Scientific and Technical Affairs (OSTA)

Date: 4/27/2009

GAIN Report Number: TC9017

United Arab Emirates

Post: Dubai

The UAE Bans Imports of Pork

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

The Government of the UAE has banned imports of pork products from all countries in response to media reports covering the detection of Swine Influenza in several countries including the United States. Prior to the ban, the UAE allowed imports of pork products for sale in special retail areas for non-Muslims. U.S. exports of pork to the UAE were valued at \$600,000 in 2008.

General Information:

The UAE Bans Imports of Pork

The Government of the UAE has banned imports of pork products from all countries in response to media reports covering the detection of Swine Influenza in several countries including the United States. Prior to the ban, the UAE allowed imports of pork products for sale in special retail areas for non-Muslims. U.S. exports of pork to the UAE were valued at \$600,000 in 2008. The decree does not outline provisions for shipments that may already be underway to the UAE. Exporters should work closely with their importer to determine how such shipments will be handled. ATO Dubai will

follow up with local officials to try and obtain greater clarity on this point. An unofficial translation of the decree, which is addressed to regulators in municipalities around the UAE, is provided below.

Begin Text of Decree Translation

United Arab Emirates
General Secretariat of Municipalities

No.: GSM/O/773
Date: 27 April 2009

Subject: Swine Avian Flu

The General Secretariat of Municipalities extends its greetings to you...

With reference to our letter number GSM/O/765 dated 04/26/2009 regarding the spread of the swine avian flu disease (epidemic) in Mexico and some areas in Northern America, we also caution all countries to take the necessary precautionary measures to inhibit the spread of this dangerous epidemic disease.

We request that you urge all concerned departments in your esteemed municipalities to take the necessary preventive measures to stop the infiltration of this disease and to ban the entry of and trading in pork meat and its derivatives from all countries as a precautionary measure. Please follow up on the developments in this subject and advise us of the measures taken.

End Text of Decree Translation